

MEMO

DATE: September 26, 2019

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- The Government of National Accord continues to help the United States successfully conduct airstrikes and attacks in the region against ISIS. Since its inception, the GNA has been a reliable ally to the U.S. in the fight of terrorism in North Africa.
- International actors, namely France and Russia, continue to have an impact on the ground in Libya. Outside influencers, through planes and mercenaries, are having an impact on the current conflict while the United States remains sidelined.
- General Haftar does not have the intention of creating peace or stability in the region, and any efforts at a peace process that includes Haftar would be problematic.

Associated Press (9/25): [U.S. says airstrike against IS in Libya kills 11](#)

- The U.S. conducted another round of airstrikes in North Africa, the second in a week, successfully taking out 11 ISIS terrorists.
- These strikes were coordinated with the Government of National Accord, as were the previous strikes earlier in the week.

Libya Observer (9/23): [Libya: Airstrikes by Libyan Army kill senior leaders from Haftar's forces, Russian mercenaries](#)

- In another day of heavy fighting, GNA forces in Sabea were able to take out key leaders from Haftar's forces as well as Russian mercenaries fighting on Haftar's behalf.
- Successful airstrikes carried out by the GNA led to regaining control of key towns near Tripoli.

Libya Observer (9/21): [Mediapart: French warplanes sold to Egypt used to back up Haftar in Libya](#)

- French website Mediapart and Radio France Internationale (RFI) revealed that French warplanes sold to Egypt have been used in support of General Haftar in Libya.
- France has already admitted to Haftar's forces using French missiles in southern Tripoli.

Libya Observer (9/22): [Libya's Army advances on strategic frontlines in southern Tripoli, pushing away Haftar's forces](#)

- The GNA has successfully advanced frontlines in Sabea, thwarting General Haftar's forces.
- The GNA carried out five airstrikes on Haftar's forces position after the LNA attacks near Tripoli.

The Defense Post (9/20): [US carries out airstrike against ISIS fighters in Libya, Africa Command says](#)

- The U.S. conducted airstrikes against ISIS in southwest Libya, coordinating with the Government of National Accord.

- This strike was to eliminate terrorist leaders and fighters to disrupt terrorist activity, according to AFRICOM commander Townsend. He also emphasized that they will continue to do so alongside Libyan partners, the Government of National Accord.

Lobe Log (9/22): [Libya's Stalemate Could Lead To Dreaded Partition](#)

- General Haftar's ongoing conflict has been damaging to the country. His calls for ceasefires have ended in him bombing regions. Outside intervention is fueling this dangerous conflict.
- The current UN mission needs to dissuade Haftar from his attack on Tripoli, or even from a potential partition of the country.

Atlantic Council (9/19): [Libya: Locked or moving forward?](#)

- The regional conflict in Libya has been intervened on by international powers involved in the ongoing crisis. This makes a need for an international conference to organize an agreement between external and internal actors to stabilize Libya. Success of this attempt would seem improbable unless Haftar changes his ways or have him replaced as the LNA leader.
- For international actors to change their support of Haftar, they need to realize that he is not the skillful leader he is perceived to be. The reality is his military skills are questionable, having ineffectively addressed terrorism, and he is not the spokesperson for secular values as people have made him to be.
- The defeat and withdrawal of the LNA is the first step in stabilizing Libya, and there is a pathway to reforming the GNA and creating a new National Unity Government.

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